

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 27, 2004, has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 3 of the present application.

Claim 3 has been amended in independent form including all the limitations in claim independent claim 1. Consequently, claims 1 and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants submit that the amendments made herein are fully supported in the specification and the drawings as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claim 3 is pending in the present application and should be allowed.

Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Bassett (U.S. Patent No. 6,242,814, "Bassett"). Claims 1 and 11 have been canceled without prejudice and therefore the rejection is now moot.

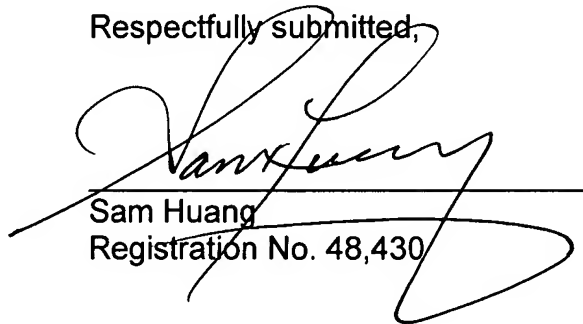
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicants also submit that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claims non-obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, and therefore respectfully request that claim 3 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the

Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300 referencing Attorney Docket No. 100353-00096.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (1 month)